



The Hour

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LAWRENCE DENNIS SPEAKS FOR LYNCHING

His Stand Welcomed by James True and
Other American Fascists

libert Parry
ng Editor
t E. Kahn
l Consultants
rt Dell
F. L. Schuman
d Stowe
rik van Loon
e Williams

Lawrence Dennis, the genteel theoretician of American Fascism, has finally removed his kid gloves. In the past his dainty manners and intellectual chatter have made him acceptable in some very polite society. But in the June 6 issue of his publication The Weekly Foreign Letter, he descends from his Fascist Ivory Tower and takes his place among the most typical of storm troopers. He expresses his fondness for one of their favorite pastimes -- lynching. In an article purporting to be an analysis of the war, he temporarily diverts his attention to other modes of killing. This passage ensues:

"The Weekly Foreign Letter is not against lynchings or legal executions. On the contrary, we can think of many we should be very much in favor of. But we do wish to stress the following points about war and lynching: (1) It is well, before working up a lynching spirit in the people as our leaders are now doing to make sure that the prospective victim is lynchable, lest the mob, cheated of its intended victim, turn around and lynch the organizers, promoters, or cheer leaders of the lynching bee which didn't come off. (This point would be well worth pondering by pro-Ally and over-zealous members of certain historically unpopular minorities in this country.)

(2) If it is a fight you are organizing, don't create the impression it is a lynching bee and don't use the lynching motif, for not only will it come as a terrible jolt to your gang to discover, after having whetted their appetite for a lynching bee to learn that it is a war they have on their hands, but you will find it impossible to get people who are out for a lynching to go in for the necessary preparations for a war. ..." (*Italics -- The Hour*)

In spite of the would-be sarcasm of some of the remarks in the above quotation, Mr. Dennis' stand on the question of lynching is clear. It is sufficiently clear to have already won the warm approval of other leading American fascists. Among them is James True who in his June 15 issue of Industrial Control Reports strongly praises this passage in The Weekly Foreign Letter as a "brilliant analysis."

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TROMBETTA'S FASCIST PAPER OF NEW YORK DEFIES U. S.

Openly Takes Orders from Mussolini

We learn that Il Grido della Stirpe, the outspoken fascist weekly published in New York City in Italian, is not as yet registered with the U. S. Department of State in compliance with the Federal regulations concerning agencies of foreign governments. Neither the newspaper itself in its columns, nor its editor Domenico Trombetta in his public and private statements, makes any effort to conceal the ties binding the publication to Il Duce. Evidence as to the connections and activities of the paper and its editor was presented by anti-fascist Italians on October 31, 1939, but no action followed.

At Il Duce's Complete Service

In addition to its frank fascist editorials, Il Grido della Stirpe publishes every message sent out by the Division of the Italians Abroad of Mussolini's Foreign Office. Often it reproduces the orders given by the Foreign Office at Rome to its publisher. In several editorials Domenico Trombetta openly boasted that he was executing orders of the officers of the Propaganda Ministry in Rome. The weekly regularly prints official news emanating from Rome, also various messages, communications and orders coming from the Fascist Party headquarters in Mussolini's capital. Of especial importance and frequency are orders from Rome addressed to the members of the Fascist Party living in the United States. The activities of these Fascist Party members are facilitated by the fact that most of them are U. S. citizens.

Fascist Hands Across the Sea

Domenico Trombetta spent the summer of 1939 in Italy where he was received as a highly valued colleague by high-ranking officials of Il Duce's government. Since his return to this country, some of these leaders have been writing fond letters to Trombetta and he has been printing them in his New York paper along with their photographs. Il Grido della Stirpe is the organ of the Dante Alighieri Society, a propaganda group with headquarters in Rome (Palazzo Firenze) and branches throughout the world.

The weekly's issue for January 27, 1940, printed forms of application to membership in the National Fascist Party of Italy. Until a few years ago the paper carried the subtitle, "Weekly of Fascist Propaganda." It still boasts of its fascistic allegiance, and dates every number with the dates of the special Fascist Calendar. At all times it continues to be violently anti-Semitic.

The following letter, written by General Gangemi on the letterhead of "Italian Fascist Units Abroad," is indicative of the politics of Trombetta and his weekly:

"My very dear Trombetta:

"You are one of those who does not forget nor must ever forget those who have seen in you a living example of the Fascist Revolution abroad. I would like to see with

great pleasure through the instrumentality of 'Il Grido della Stirpe' the consolidation in platoons side by side with you of the Italian Veterans of the Great War and the Legionnaires of the Empire (the Italian army in Ethiopia), so that they may give life to defend and strengthen the power of the newspaper of our Fascist faith in the United States. The fight is the same. The terrain is different, but not so the valor of our race which has been capable of conquering, defending and propagating the civilization of Rome, which Il Duce has said with good reason is a civilization of high humanity and of perfect social justice."

(For a previous report on Trombetta and other Italian Fascists in America see The Hour of June 1.)

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COLORADO KLAN INCREASES ACTIVITY

Talks of Fighting the Nazis, but Actually Terrorizes Catholics, Negroes and Jews

The growing strength of the Ku Klux Klan in Colorado is revealed by the increasing frequency of cross-burnings near Denver and other localities in the State. The leaders of Colorado's night-riders officially declare that their organization is dedicated to the struggle against Nazism "and all the other isms in this country," but unofficially the only purpose of the cross-burnings and additional activities of the Klan is to terrorize the Negroes, Catholics and Jews residing in the state.

Klan's Prosperity

Chief among the sites of fiery demonstrations is Ruby Hill near Denver. Here, on the top of a large knoll, the Colorado Klan purchased seven acres and built a squat clubhouse with a broad arched roof. Parking space for hundreds of cars is provided, and at a recent cross-burning as many as 900 automobiles were counted. A cross burned by Denver's night-gowned terrorists is made up of several hundred tin cans sunk into the ground and filled with burning oil. Extending over the side of the hill in a giant fiery figure, it is usually visible for miles around. Guards stand at a white gate preventing non-Klansmen from entering the grounds of the club while the cross is burning. Hundreds of Klansmen are present in their gowns and hoods. All of them are masked, the local leaders denying the latest reports that the national chiefs of the Klan have ordered the abolition of the order's sinister long mask. "That's just newspaper talk," they say.

Klan Cross to be Electrified

The Denver branch of the Klan meets in the clubhouse once a week, and the State of Colorado branch gathers once a month. The giant cross, 125 feet vertically and 62½ feet in its cross-bar, is burned during State meetings and on other solemn occasions. The Klansmen boast that their drive for new members is meeting with much success, which, they say, will

soon allow them to replace the tin-can cross with an electrical cross built on a substantial scaffold "so that more people can see it better."

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URGE UNITED STATES TO FIND "AMERICAN HITLER"

Midwestern Bundsters Grow Bolder -- Situation
Confused by Sweeping Anti-Alienism -- Obscure
Forces Behind Campaign Against Immigrants

"America needs a leader like Hitler," such was the declaration of Otto Edwards of Elkhart, Ind., in his speech to Chicago's branch of the Nazi Bund gathering in the Haus Vaterland Club in West Byron Street to celebrate Der Fuehrer's victories. The Bundsmen cheered lustily. Edwards was introduced by Dr. Otto Willumeit, director of the Indiana-Illinois division of the German-American Bund, in a speech full of abuse aimed at American democracy.

The Bundsters of the Middle West and some of their American sympathizers have been intensifying their work. They openly threaten that they will bring about a quick and complete triumph of fascism in the United States. Propaganda is on the increase. A typical example of the thoroughness of the Nazis and their associates may be seen in the fact that officials in charge of WPA libraries at East St. Louis have discovered quantities of Nazi and fascist literature in the files of the libraries. An order was at once issued barring the 16 WPA libraries of St. Clair and Clinton counties from accepting the "gifts" of such literature which usually arrive by mail from "unknown" sources.

Incident in a Chicago School and Campaign in Cleveland

In Chicago, a parent recently complained that her child had brought from a public school several pamphlets urging "the need of a National Socialist party for America," and that soon after the teacher who had given the child those pamphlets called upon the mother at her home and harangued her in favor of fascism. The teacher's superiors investigated the charges and found them true, but, instead of disciplining or even discharging the propagandist, transferred the pro-Hitlerite teacher to another school -- in a German neighborhood! The presumption on the part of the school authorities apparently is that Germans in Chicago will welcome a fascist teacher. The fact that most Germans in Chicago are anti-Hitler and anti-fascist is entirely disregarded.

In Cleveland, Ohio, one thousand pro-Nazi spectators cheered the recent showing of a propaganda film which had come from Berlin via Yorkville, New York City. The result was a wave of counter-propaganda sweeping the street-talk and restaurant-talk in the Ohio city and directed not so much against the Nazi propagandists as against all aliens. The impression is that the anti-alien talk is not part of an unreasoning mob reaction, but the result of carefully prepared work on the part of some well-concealed group or organization using the current situation for its own purposes which have nothing in common with the security and unity of the American people.